

HOUSE JOINT RESOLUTION 1219
By Casada

A RESOLUTION to honor and commend the legendary Len Rossi
upon his induction into the Professional
Wrestling Hall of Fame.

WHEREAS, it is fitting that the members of this General Assembly should salute those citizens who through their extraordinary efforts have distinguished themselves both as professional athletes of the greatest ability and community leaders of whom we can all be proud; and

WHEREAS, the legendary Len Rossi, one of the greatest professional wrestlers the sport has ever known, has been selected for induction into the Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame in Schenectady, New York; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rossi is richly deserving of this prestigious honor, which recognizes the lasting positive impact he made during his 22-year career in the squared circle; and

WHEREAS, noted for his great strength and agility in the ring, Len Rossi held the North American Junior Heavyweight title, the NWA Junior Heavyweight title, and the World Tag Team title (with the late Tex Riley) at various points in his illustrious career; and

WHEREAS, growing up in Utica, New York, Mr. Rossi began wrestling at the tender age of 14; he joined the ranks of professional wrestling in 1950 and was soon wrestling at sold-out arenas across the United States and as far away as Canada and Japan; and

WHEREAS, he moved his family to Nashville in 1958 to be near the largest wrestling circuit and the rest is history; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Rossi quickly became one of the most popular wrestlers in the Volunteer State; he won the hearts of local fans by employing his vast array of moves and holds as, the embodiment of good, he triumphed over his evil opponents; and

WHEREAS, a man of social conscience, Mr. Rossi became one of the first wrestlers to integrate the sport when he took African-American wrestler Bear Cat Brown as his tag team partner in the late 1960s in Birmingham, Alabama; and

WHEREAS, in 1972, Mr. Rossi was injured in a car accident and was forced to retire from wrestling; however, grasping a positive outlook from a negative situation, he began studying natural healing after his accident, a concept which he still promotes today at Len Rossi's Health Foods in Brentwood; and

WHEREAS, as one of the 12 members of the Class of 2004 being inducted into the Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame, Len Rossi stands alongside such luminaries as Terry Funk, Verne Gagne, Harley Race, Mae Young, and Vince McMahon, Sr. in a place of honor where he most assuredly belongs as one of the greatest wrestlers of his or any other generation; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE ONE HUNDRED THIRD GENERAL ASSEMBLY OF THE STATE OF TENNESSEE, THE SENATE CONCURRING, that we hereby honor and commend the legendary Len Rossi upon being inducted into the Professional Wrestling Hall of Fame and extend to him our best wishes for every future success.

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that an appropriate copy of this resolution be prepared for presentation with this final clause omitted from such copy.